

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 25 were rejected as being anticipated by the cited Masuyama patent, while the remaining pending claims were rejected as being obvious in view of various combinations of several of the cited references. In response to these rejections, Applicants note first that independent Claims 1 and 25, which were rejected in view of the disclosure of the cited Masuyama patent, have been amended and are believed to be patentable over that reference.

Specifically, amended Claims 1 and 25 now require an operation of transferring an accumulated carrier after the end of a carrier accumulation period for a photoelectric conversion element. In this connection the Masuyama patent discloses that, in order to control an overflow of a carrier during an accumulation period, a bias voltage is applied to a transfer switch and a reset switch. However, the Masuyama reference does not disclose applicants' claimed invention as characterized above, wherefore Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 25 are patentably distinct over that reference.

Referring now to the substance of Claim 5, the invention thereof may be characterized by a shape of a single pulse "signal for controlling a transfer switch so that a time period during which the transfer switch changes from an ON state to an OFF state becomes longer than a time period during which the transfer switch changes from the OFF state to the ON state" as shown in Applicants' Figs. 9-11. Claim 5 was rejected as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of the cited Hamasaki '583 and Suzuki '407 patents. However, column 9, lines 15-63 of Suzuki, as pointed out in the Office Action, includes no description concerned with the time period during which the transfer switch changes from the OFF state to

the ON state as required in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit the cited references can not be deemed to disclose the substance of Claim 5.

Finally, it is noted that the word “adapted” which Applicants believe was a proper part of the claims as presented, and which was not intended to expand the meaning of the claims, has been deleted from the independent claims as being unnecessary to the understanding of the claimed structure defined in those claims.

For all these various reasons it is believed that the application is now allowable, and the issuance of a formal notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant’s undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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